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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/764,708	01/18/2001	Katherine G. August	August 35	7584
30594	7590	10/06/2004		
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 8910 RESTON, VA 20195			EXAMINER PHAN, JOSEPH T	
			ART UNIT 2645	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/764,708

Applicant(s)

AUGUST, KATHERINE G.

Examiner

Joseph T Phan

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2645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 3 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 3 lines 2-3 recites the phrase “..the feature complex..” It is unclear if this phrase is referring to “a feature available on the network” of claim 1 line 13 or a new complex feature that has not been claimed. Appropriate clarification or correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-34 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being rejected by Hou et al, Patent #5,566,229.

Regarding claim 1, Hou teaches a method for permitting a subscriber to perform an action available on a communications network using a spoken utterance, comprising: maintaining a system state database comprising a tree structure having a plurality of nodes, each respective node of said plurality of nodes representing a particular system

state of a plurality of possible system states and being associated with a predetermined node-specific grammar for the respective node (*Fig.7, col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, and col.9 lines 22-45; plurality of calling labels which represents specific nodes with a particular system state*);

awaiting from the subscriber a spoken utterance at the particular system state and recognizing the spoken utterance by comparing the spoken utterance to the predetermined grammar for the respective node for correspondence to the particular system state (*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, and col.10 lines 14-22*); and performing an action at the network represented by the spoken utterance if the spoken utterance has been recognized as the predetermined grammar for the respective node, wherein the action activates a control sequence at the network for accessing a feature available on the network (*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 2, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising, after recognizing the spoken utterance, converting the spoken utterance to electronically-readable data having a format recognizable by one of the network, and transmitting the converted data to the respective one of the network network (*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 3, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the spoken utterance comprises a command to access one of an available feature of the feature complex available on the network and a spoken menu of the available features network (*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 4, Hou teaches the method of claim 3, wherein the feature comprises one of a group consisting of call forwarding, hold, conferencing, voice-mail, call back, caller-ID, caller-ID related features and caller-ID related functions network (*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 5, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the node-specific grammar associated with each respective node comprises at least one of a group consisting of a word descriptive of the action to be performed, a synonym of the word, and a globally-available word available at all of said plural nodes. (*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 6, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined grammar for the particular node comprises grammar for multiple languages network (*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38; multiple languages can be programmed then compared to the spoken utterances of the node*).

Regarding claim 7, Hou teaches the method of claim 6, wherein the spoken utterance of the subscriber is in one of the multiple languages, and the method further comprises the steps of: determining the one of the multiple languages of the spoken utterance of the subscriber; and communicating via the network with the subscriber via a text-to-speech translator that translates in the determined one language of the subscriber (*col.5 lines 19-67*).

Regarding claim 8, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising determining a particular template to use for speech recognition from a plurality of

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predefined voice pattern templates, wherein the particular template comprises a subset of the predetermined grammar for the respective node, and wherein the step of recognizing the spoken utterance comprises comparing the spoken utterance to the predetermine subset of the predetermined grammar for the respective node (*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 9, Hou teaches the method of claim 8, wherein the plurality of predefined voice pattern templates comprises independent templates for males, females, and children(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 10, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising the step of prompting the subscriber to issue the spoken utterance using one of a group consisting of a spoken menu generated by a text to speech translator, a recorded announcement of a menu, and a synthesized announcement of the menu(*col.5 lines 19-67*).

Regarding claim 11, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: transmitting, by the network, a signal to the subscriber in a data format not audibly recognizable by the subscriber; and converting the transmitted signal to an audible message recognizable to the subscriber using one of a text to speech translator, a recording of speech, and a speech synthesizer (*col.5 lines 19-67, col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 12, Hou teaches the method of claim 11, wherein the signal transmitted by the network to 2 the subscriber comprises one of the group consisting of an ADSI signal and a DTMF signal (col.4 lines 41-47 and col.9 lines 8-46).

Regarding claim 13, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the action performed comprises transmitting, by the network, of a signal to a second network(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 14, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the method is performed by a speech recognition system, and the method further comprises the step of providing to the subscriber an ability to operatively toggle on and off the speech recognition system(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 15, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the system state database is located on a speech processing unit coupled to the network through one of the group consisting a local communications office equipment, the Internet, a computer, a mobile phone, a headset, a handset, a base station, a set-top box, a personal digital assistant, an appliance, and a remote control, and wherein said step of comparing the spoken utterance is performed at the location of the system state database(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 16, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of possible system states comprises a plurality of possible steps in a call flow and an "always connected" state in which a feature may be accessed even when a call is not in progress(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 17, Hou teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising:
inputting a key input, and
wherein the step of performing the action comprises performing the action in
accordance with the spoken utterance and the key input(col.4 lines 41-48 and col.9
lines 8-46, and col.10 lines 22-38).

Regarding claim 18, Hou teaches a communications system providing speech
recognition functionality to a network, comprising:
a device coupled to the network and into which an utterance may be spoken by a
user, a system state database accessible to the network and defining a tree structure
having a plurality of nodes, each respective node of said plural nodes representing a
particular step of a plurality of possible system states and being associated with a
predetermined node specific grammar for the respective node(*Fig.1, Fig.7, col.3 lines
35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, and col.9 lines 22-45; plurality of calling labels which
represents specific nodes with a particular system state*);
means for interpreting the user-spoken utterance and means for comparing the
interpreted spoken utterance to the predetermined grammar for the respective node
corresponding to the particular system state to recognize the spoken utterance as
corresponding to the predetermined grammar associated with the respective
node(*Fig.1, col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-
38*); and means for performing an action represented by the spoken utterance at the
network if the spoken utterance has been recognized as corresponding to the
predetermined grammar associated with the respective node, wherein the action

activates a control sequence at the network for accessing a feature available on the network(Fig. 1, *col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 19, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 18, wherein the spoken utterance comprises one of a group consisting of a command to access a feature available at the network, and a spoken menu of available features at the network(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 20, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 18, wherein the spoken utterance comprises a command to access a feature available at the network, the feature comprising one of a group consisting of call forwarding, hold, conferencing, voice-mail, call back, and caller-ID(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 21, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 18, wherein said interpreting means comprises an utterance verification engine(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 22, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 18, wherein said comparing means

comprises a reference database which comprises the predetermined node-specific grammar associated with each respective node(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 23, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 22, wherein the system state and reference databases are both maintained on a speech processing unit coupled to the network through one of a group consisting of a local communications office equipment, the Internet, a computer, a mobile phone, a headset, a handset, a base station, a set-top box, a personal digital assistant, an appliance, and a remote control(Fig.9).

Regarding claim 24, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 22, wherein the node-specific grammar associated with each respective node comprises at least one of a group consisting of a word that is descriptive of the action to be performed, a synonym of said at least one word, and a globally-available word available at all of said plural nodes(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 25, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 18, wherein the predetermined grammar for the particular node comprises grammar for multiple languages(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 26, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 25, further comprising means for determining the language of the spoken utterance of the user, and a text-to-speech translator for translating communications from a network to the

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user in the determined language of the user(col.5 lines 19-67, *col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 27, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 18, further comprising means for offering the user a spoken menu of the predetermined grammar available at the respective node in the call flow(col.5 lines 19-67, *col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 28, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 27, further comprising means for receiving the requested spoken menu and at least a partial text menu of the available features(col.5 lines 19-67, *col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 29, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 18, further comprising means for transmitting, to the user, a signal in a data format not audibly recognizable by the user, a text to speech translator, and means for converting the transmitted signal to an audible message recognizable to the user using the text to speech translator(col.5 lines 19-67, *col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 30, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 29, wherein the transmitted signal comprises one of a group consisting of an ADSI signal and a DTMF signal(col.4 lines 41-47 and col.9 lines 8-46).

Regarding claim 31, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 18, wherein the means for performing an action comprises means for transmitting a signal

transmitted between networks(*col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 32, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 18, further comprising means for toggling on and off the speech recognition and text-to-speech functionality(*col.5 lines 19-67, col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 33, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 18, wherein the plurality of possible system states comprises a plurality of possible steps in a call flow and an "always connected" state in which a feature may be accessed even when a call is not in progress(*col.5 lines 19-67, col.3 lines 35-53, col.4 lines 31-41, col.9 lines 22-45, and col.10 lines 14-38*).

Regarding claim 34, Hou teaches the communications system of claim 18, further comprising: means for inputting a key input, and wherein the means for performing the action comprises performing the action in accordance with the spoken utterance and the key input(*col.4 lines 41-48 and col.9 lines 8-46, and col.10 lines 22-38*).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph T Phan whose telephone number is 703-305-3206. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH 9:00-6:30, in every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on 703-305-4895. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JTP
September 30, 2004

JTP

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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